

The January 11, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance. One or more members of the city council may attend the meeting via telephone or other electronic means, pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021. The meeting can be attended by the public in person. Roll Call: Councilmembers Brenda Buck (present), Chip Frederickson (present), Tony Button (virtually), and Mayor Ronda Bjornson (present). Absent: Councilmember Rick Roberts attempted virtual connection twice but was unable to participate due to lack of broadband width. Clerk Karrie Roeschlein was present. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve the agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REORGANIZATION: Administer Oath of Office to Councilmember Brenda Buck was conducted. Frederickson took the oath at a previous meeting and Bjornson previously in the office. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to make the following 2021 commissioner appointments and designate city representatives as recommended by the Mayor: Tony Button, Acting Mayor; Ronda Bjornson, Weed Inspector; Jacob Weinreich, Assistant Weed Inspector; Chip Frederickson Wastewater Commissioner; Tony Button, Street & Sidewalk Commissioner; Brenda Buck, Municipal Buildings Commissioner; Rick Roberts, Park Commissioner; First National Bank of Milaca, Isle Branch, and League of MN Cities 4M Fund Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund, Financial Depositories; Mille Lacs Messenger, Newspaper; Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC, Accountants; Kennedy & Graven Chartered and Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney's Office, Attorneys; Rinke Noonan, Special Legal Counsel; Short Elliot Hendrickson (S.E.H), Engineers; Sourcewell, Zoning Administrator; David Drown Associates Inc., Financial Advisers; and Oberfeld Insurance, Insurance Agency. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

- A) Meeting Minutes: 9/28 Special, 9/14 Council, and 8/31 Special
- B) City Hall Closed Mon. 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- C) Planning Commission Public Hearing Re: Prohibiting Short-Term Rentals, Mon. 2/8 @ 5 pm
- D) State Representative Sondra Erickson 12/16 Memo Re: Legislative Intent & Direction for County Aid to Businesses Closed
- E) 2021 IRS Standard Mileage Rate .56 Cents from 57.5 Cents: New Wahkon Rate
- F) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2020 Isle Lions Club Zero, 11/2020 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Zero
- G) Treasurer's Report 2020 Year End Unaudited Cash Control Statement 1/1 - 12/31/2020
- H) Treasurer's Report 12/31/2020 Ending Balance \$692,118.71
- I) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report
- J) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$133,901.89
- K) Disbursement Register 1/11/2021 Date Range 12/15/2020 – 1/11/2021 Total \$107,962.90

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Resolution 2021-0111 Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP) Maintenance: Required for Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation 2020/21 Full Application (see unfinished business) requesting grant funds for improvements in conjunction with DOT Main Street 2024 Project and that the City will maintain said improvements. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adopt Resolution No. 2021-0111 TAP Maintenance. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Initiative Foundation \$250 Donation Request: Due to COVID-19 business closures, charitable gambling receipts are way below average. Charitable Gambling Fund now pays for fire protection, \$9375.04 made in four payments beginning April 2021, and Council wants assurance said funds are available prior to giving donations. Current fund balance is \$8769.45 with last few months receipts being zero. Clerk to draft prior years analysis of said fund for council review at February meeting, along with past donations to Initiative Foundation & MACV. Donations are tabled at this time.

MN Assistance County for Veterans (MACV) Donation Request: See above discussion. Worthwhile organization but donations are tabled at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Greater Minnesota Transportation Alternatives Solicitation 2020/21 Full Application: Grant for enhancements such as lighting system, enhanced pedestrian crossings, decorative vegetation with irrigation, enhanced concrete (color, exposed aggregate), benches, tables and planters, in conjunction with DOT Main Street 2024 Project. Funding round is for 2025 with city match requirement. MLC adopted required sponsorship resolution, as Wahkon's small population requires it. Three letters of support were included from MN Scenic Byway Commission, Mille Lacs Area Tourism Council and Isle Area Chamber of Commerce.

REPORTS: Wastewater: Weinreich wasn't available to attend tonight's meeting.

Zoning: No permits issued in December. In 2020 there were 15 land use permits for structures and 4 other certificates of compliance (patios, etc.).

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Per MCSI (IT contractor) city cloud must be rebuilt as it crashed when program system update occurred. Cloud is used by council to review large agendas. Tree in alley was removed and Pat Heinsen believed it was on her property. Jacob brought in Chris Weinreich who was fully aware tree was in alley right-of-way, and located survey stake. Pictures were taken and sent to Heinsen verifying tree was verified to be in the alley. Tree was hindering proper plowing, especially since fence was erected by neighboring owner. Stormwater Plan should be ready for review in March; Jacob joined in on the last virtual meeting. Thank you Button for constructing & installing acoustic sound panels for the hall at no cost, they are working very well. Supplies were paid for through CARES Act Fund.

Frederickson: MLC Sheriff's Dept. will be utilizing the county building in the mailing district of Wahkon, just outside city limits, as a hub for the north part of the county. Building was used for Veteran Services and SNAP program appointments, and is also where the spring hazardous waste collection is held. Will be nice to have their presence close by. Clerk will contact Sheriff Don Lorge that council would appreciate having a deputy provide a report at a future meeting as it has been a while since their last visit.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 8, 2021 special Planning Commission (PC) meeting, comprised of full council, was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 5:08 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Brenda Buck, Chip Frederickson, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Rick Roberts was present via Cisco Webex. Councilmember Tony Button was absent and couldn't attend virtually due to internet issues. Employees: Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present and Wahkon's Planning & Zoning Specialist Darrin Welle attended virtually.

Minutes: 12/14/2020 Planning Commission Meeting: Usual procedure is to approve PC minutes at the next PC meeting. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve 12/14/2020 PC meeting minutes. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Per Welle, Current zoning rules allows vacation rentals, defined as less than 30 days, with an approved Interim Use Permit (IUP). Proposed ordinance would prohibit such rentals entirely. The one approved IUP vacation rental would be allowed to continue. Mayor Bjornson opened the public hearing at 5:13 pm.

Included in the agenda was an email from Chris & Nancy Turnbull "Please do not allow this short term-rental plague to infect our private homes and cabins, rather keep it and its related revenues in the resorts – where it has been and really belongs."

Michael Temte: Wants to see the definitions. Bed & breakfast, Airbnb, need to be defined and discussed. Owner of the property should be on the premises. Has no problem with over 30 days, does the bed & breakfast? He doesn't think bed & breakfast should be listed.

Rob Dubbs: Business owner. Would like PC to reconsider this issue. You had issues with one, but all shouldn't be banned. Small resorts have gone away and this is a way to bring tourists to spend money. We have a Noise Ordinance so call the sheriff; things can be done. Consider lodging taxes mandatory and make limits on number of persons. Slow down and reconsider please as banning it all is a bit too much.

Linda Albertson: Council did a good thing when they decided to prohibit. We called the sheriff and it takes hours. We don't have a police department. No way to enforce the rules.

Brian Lee: Most cities support small businesses and tourism. The samples previously provided of cities that banned them aren't comparative to our town. Other cities around the lake have figured how to make it work. Have regulations and if they aren't met, take approval away. His friend Regan, wanted it noted that Lee's name has been mentioned as the VRBO that doesn't have an IUP. This is defamation of character, and wasn't fact checked or researched. Neighbors can come over and talk to us anytime. Don't use his name anymore. Unfortunately, the issues that arose have been mostly his family and friends.

Butch Bollig: He is all for businesses, but don't bring business to our retirement town. We don't want it. Other residences will begin to do the same thing if allowed. Not saying we want to stop it completely but there needs to be regulations. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to close the public hearing. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing was closed at 5:28 pm

Discussion and Recommendations: Motion to Council: Bjornson asked if we have enough information to make the decision tonight? Do we want to be a town of ordinances? City of Isle and Mille Lacs County (MLC) don't regulate them. This was controversial at county level several years ago. Welle stated bed & breakfast dwellings aren't included as they're licensed by state. They aren't part of the discussion, nor are hotel/motel/resorts, as they are allowed to rent less than 30 days. Frederickson brought up the petition received months ago with 46 signatures opposing them. If you want to be in the business, buy a resort. Many are retired and don't need to worry about a bachelor party next door.

Buck is new to the area. She has used them and been respectful of the neighbors. Now she owns property and she goes back and forth on her decision. How do we enforce? Town is very small. Don't see police presence in town. She doesn't feel prepared to make a decision. Can we enforce? If we say no, are we shooting ourselves in the foot. Sad to see the town so empty. Want our town to flourish and prosper. Roberts has only heard opposition from the neighbors. We also received letters in opposition besides the petition. His opinion hasn't changed and is opposed to vacation rentals. Bjornson understands resorts are for such rentals but they can't accommodate everyone so it is nice to have options. She agrees with Buck and isn't ready to make decision at this time. Pretty sure we have people renting that don't have approved permits and aren't advertising. We can't control our neighbors and they can be loud. Don't want to be the unfriendly city nor do I want neighbors upset either. I don't know the answer and that is why we are here. Don't want to adopt an ordinance that isn't enforceable. Welle suggested MLC be contacted to see if they have had many issues with vacation rentals. *Clerk called Councilmember Tony Button at approximately 5:45 pm and he joined the conversation via speaker phone.* He suggested this wait until himself and Roberts return. Per Welle, additional published and/or posted notice isn't required as long as a date and time of the continued meeting has been set. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to continue the conversation on recommendations to council until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Button, Roberts, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The February 8, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:01 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Chip Frederickson, Brenda Buck, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Councilmembers Rick Roberts and Tony Button attended virtually via Cisco Webex. Employees Jacob Weinreich and Karrie Roeschlein were present; City Engineer Dave Blommel attended virtually. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 1/11/2021 Council

B) City Hall Closed Mon. 2/15 Presidents' Day

C) Mille Lacs Lake Fisheries Advisory Committee (MLFAC) Openings: Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM) Email

D) Mille Lacs Equal Rights Foundation (MERF) LG220 Lawful Gambling Exempt Application for 9/15 Raffle: Acknowledged with no waiting period as usual procedure.

E) Wahkon Summary Budget Statement

F) 2021 Annual Liquor License Renewals: Midwest Investment LLC dba Mini Mart #7, South Shore Hospitality LLC dba Mugg's of Mille Lacs, and Wahkon Inn Bar & Restaurant LLC

G) New Off Sale Liquor License: Aadhira LLC dba Lake Stop aka Mini Mart #7

H) Charitable Gambling Report: 12/2020 Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Zero

I) Treasurer's Report 2/2/2021 Ending Balance \$619,315.22

J) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

K) Mille Lacs County (MLC) Tax Settlement Report \$4,944.37

L) Disbursement Register 2/8/2021 Date Range 1/12 – 2/8 Total \$114,784.14

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS & POLICIES: Ordinance No. 2021-___ An Ordinance Prohibiting Short-Term Vacation Rentals: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm.

Resolution No. _____ Resolution Approving Summary Language for Publication of Ordinance No. 2021-___: Planning Commission 2/8 meeting held at 5 pm was continued until Monday 4/12 at 5 pm.

NEW BUSINESS: League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Property & Casualty Premium Increase: Tom Oberfeld, Oberfeld Insurance Agency: City buildings & equipment were appraised last year and almost every building will see an increased premium for approximately \$600 more per year. Replacement would be 150% of the appraisal. Hard to argue with their appraisals as they are professionally done. Past dividends and premiums 2008 – 2020 information was provided. Do you want to insure your wastewater ponds? Extra premium of \$2032. Only two instances he is aware of where claims occurred; cows and drunk driver caused damages. All mechanics are covered but not the pond infrastructure itself. They have never been insured since built in late 1970s. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck not to insure the sewer ponds. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Isle Fire Department Contract for Fire Services: \$9375.04 annual cost for Wahkon coverage. Our fire department dissolved in 1997. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to enter into agreement for fire protection from Isle Fire Department. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: Engineer: Dave Blommel: Memo was part of the agenda giving updates on Trunk Hwy 27, Sanitary Sewer Improvements and Storm Water Management Plan. Hwy 27 came down to three options, with the one we favored similar to Glenwood. Second option includes turn left lane, as we currently have. Demonstration project will be in the spring, without turn left lane, along with public hearing. After DOT does a final review, City would give a thumbs up one last time. Requesting funding from Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) which could cover some city cost for amenities. Plan will give room to businesses for benches, café seating, etc., parking lane would be reduced from 12' to 10' as required by DOT. North Main after 4th Street would be changed a bit creating more space around lift station #3, which could be used for parking. Curve near 1st St. E would be sloped differently so drivers aren't speeding around it, but that won't include removing the hill on the west side. This project may be pushed back again by DOT due to budget restraints. This would tie in nicely with TAP grant funding should we be awarded money to be used in 2025.

Stormwater plan is almost ready and was conducted with grant funds through Mille Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Draft and final plans will be reviewed by council. Survey work has been completed for sanitary sewer improvement project. USDA process is slow. Army Corp of Engineers approved S.E.H environmental assessment report but they must conduct their own.

Wastewater: Weinreich: Force main break on 1/15 occurred in alley behind Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) building at 251 North Main. CenterPoint Energy contracted with Michels Construction to install new gas line and the exact location of a clean out riser buried below ground was unclear, which was damaged in late fall but went unnoticed until 1/15. Michels said they can't take responsibility as the City signed off on the Gopher State One locates. Preliminary plans have this clean out in a different location. RC Habeck Construction came out immediately to make the repair, which included removing this unused buried clean out. Absolute Septic was also involved at the nearest lift station. Proper protocols were followed and MPCA was contacted. Water well samples were required to be taken from Wahkon Inn, which came back normal. MLBO was notified but felt their well didn't need sampling due to Wahkon Inn results

Zoning: One permit for a house was approved for Ebnet.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Weinreich: Brian Bezanson offered to plow 7th Street and was informed the city will continue to do it. Starter was replaced in big plow truck and DOT inspection conducted.

Roeschlein: Council would like to be made aware of council representative pay but it isn't necessary to get their approval before making payment as it is in the ordinance. At beginning of each year, \$100,000 transfer is made if there are excess funds in WW Operating to pay for debt service bond payments. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Buck to authorize transfer of \$100,000 from WW Operating Fund to WW Emergency/Debt Service Fund. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Retired WW Operator Chris Weinreich sent thank you card: "Thank you for all the support and trust you guys gave me throughout my career in Wahkon. It was the best job I ever had. I miss it terribly!"

Buck: Wish there was something we can do to bring more businesses to town. Several business fronts are empty. Currently everything is zoned residential and conditional use permits are required to operate a business. Need to have this discussion with Zoning Administrator Darrin Welle at a future meeting.

Bjornson: Attended the Mille Lacs Corporate Venture (MLCV) Tribal Economy Business Incubator (TEBI) focus group meeting with Roeschlein at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The term tribal area references their newly resurrected reservation, which City of Wahkon and MLC still oppose as it was dissolved. Goal is to have business incubators which would assist entrepreneurs, both band members and the general public. Opportunity to work together. MLBO has purchased main street businesses and resorts only to close them down. City needs a thriving main street to survive. Need city ordinance requiring owners to do something with their main street buildings.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Button, seconded by Frederickson to adjourn. Ayes: Buck, Frederickson, Roberts, Button, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer

The March 8, 2021 Wahkon City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Ronda Bjornson at 6:00 pm. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Councilmembers Rick Roberts, Chip Frederickson, and Mayor Ronda Bjornson were present in chambers; Councilmembers Tony Button and Brenda Buck attended virtually via Cisco Webex. Buck couldn't use video due to internet issues and she appeared with the name Kim Tyson, who was previous councilmember; this was formally announced and the council laptop will be changed by next meeting. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: All items listed shall be approved by one motion, unless removed. (B) Bjornson encouraged citizens to attend. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to approve consent agenda. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Meeting Minutes: 12/14/2020 Council; 11/23/2020 Special Council; 11/12/2020 Rescheduled Council; 10/27/2020 & 10/20/2020 Special Council; 10/12/2020 Council

B) MN Attorney General Keith Ellison Virtual Town Hall Meeting 6 – 7:30 pm, Thurs. 3/11

C) 2021 Board of Review Schedule: Wahkon Open Book Meetings @ Mille Lacs County (MLC) Assessors Office 4/23 & 4/30

D) League of MN Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Liability Coverage Waiver Form: City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. 466.04

E) Mille Lacs Drift Skippers (MLDS) Department of Natural Resources/Trail Grants Letter of Support from Wahkon

F) Not just a birthday; Mille Lacs Messenger 3/4 Article by Ronda Bjornson

G) Savage Communications Franchise 2020 Report & Past History

H) LG510 City 10% Lawful Gambling Annual Report

I) Charitable Gambling Report: 1/2021 MLDS \$947.70; Isle Lions Club \$1024.06

J) Treasurer's Report 2/28/2021 Ending Balance \$621,317.20

K) Interim Financial Monthly Analysis Report

L) Disbursement Register 3/8/2021 Date Range 2/9 – 3/8 Total \$120,423.17

REPORTS: MLC Sheriff's Dept: Chief Deputy Kyle Burton #5102: Council agreed to move this up on the agenda. Sheriff Don Lorge and Chief Deputy Kyle Burton were present. Lorge believes there is a lot fear mongering and suggests people take a step back. National media isn't doing us justice. The sheriff's department has had outpouring of support from our community. MLC sent deputies to Minneapolis during the riots and support was evident there as well. Police defunding, tribal litigation of 1855 treaty and lawsuit against the state. As he is named in the pending lawsuit, he can't speak of it due to legal recourse. Reservation signs were erected by MnDOT without any discussion with MLC who has repeatedly invited Governor Tim Walz to meet with the board which never occurred. People are starting to pay attention which is a good thing. Lorge suggests people attend upcoming virtual meeting with MN Attorney General Keith Ellison. MLC is a second amendment county and as such no one is coming for your guns as long as he is sheriff. Stop the rhetoric, life must go on and people can't sit and dwell on it; turn off the TV. Sheriff's department will have an outpost in a portion of MLC maintenance garage, just outside of Wahkon. Future plans include moving out of Cove building.

Burton gave report of calls; there were 56 calls between October and February. Burglary and medical comprise the most, parking complaints, domestic issue, etc. This is solely for Wahkon corporate limits. Button mentioned sheriff's presence was down last fall. Covid-19 has curtailed business outreach. Deputies should be hitting every county and city road. Request was made to please monitor the Soo Line Trail for snowmobiles and ATVs speeding in town. Lorge thanked council for all that they are doing for the community!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Wahkon Stormwater Management Plan and CWF Grant Update & Review Draft: Council agreed to move this up on the agenda. Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD): Lynn Gallice attended virtually to provide update. Plan is scheduled to be completed in April and grant expires at year-end. Outreach to community for plan support is next step. With Chris Weinreich's unexpected retirement, city owes a bit more for staff contribution, which Gallice is able to do. Roeschlein would still be involved, but would appreciate Gallice's assistance. "\$5,333 of these funds could be spent by the SWCD to do the remaining grant work in order to lessen the Wahkon staff workload." Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant would reimburse SWCD and not City. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to authorize SWCD staff to do remaining grant work owed by city staff. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. City owes \$11,268 in cash to help pay for engineering services, which will be invoiced soon. \$940 owed by City for in-kind time and materials, which will be accomplished. Gallice asked if there were any comments or questions, which there were none. She concluded that this grant has been great to work on. S.E.H and city staff has been wonderful and outreach support provided by Roeschlein was invaluable.

NEW BUSINESS: Code of Ethics for Public Officials in the City of Wahkon: City auditor strongly suggested this, which includes "Disclosure of Financial Interests by a Public Official." Policy requests at minimum this be reviewed annually by council and staff in order to be informed of potential conflicts of interest. City of Isle implemented theirs in 2018. We are already doing a good job on this, but having it on paper is a good thing as it makes us more transparent. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to adopt Code of Ethics for Public Officials. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Accrual vs Cash Basis Accounting: USDA Email: The city referenced in the email from USDA is the City of Isle; "Another City checked with the Army Corps on the single audit requirement since they to expended more than \$750k and they said it wasn't required. Saying that, I'm not expecting any additional financial reporting requirements for Wahkon as a result of this project." Is there really a need to know the exact dollar of the city's assets and liabilities? State of MN allows small cities to be on a cash basis per statute. It would take a lot of work to compile original costs of streets, WW system, buildings, etc. Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC agreed to do 2020 audit on cash basis. They will present audit in April and will also discuss accrual accounting with council. At this time, council agreed our small town should continue on cash basis, but will be open to hear pros and cons directly from auditor next month.

Minnesota Rural Water Assoc. (MRWA) Annual Renewal & Additional Support: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to renew MRWA option B membership, along with two \$25 support donations from Charitable Gambling Fund to their Scholarship and Equipment Funds. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Paychex Payroll Services: As a means to free up office time for meeting minutes and other duties, a quote was obtained. City of Onamia has used them since end of 2017. We outsourced payroll a few years ago but stopped as the journal entries were problematic. Onamia has CTAS accounting program as does Wahkon, and that hasn't been an issue. Services include bi-weekly payroll, quarterly reports, labor posters, year-end employee forms, and most importantly they keep abreast of HR rules. Based on 2020 employee numbers, cost would be approximately \$1550 annually. Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to authorize payroll services through Paychex. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Review at 2022 budget time.

City 2020 Events: Wahkon Veterans Park 100th Anniversary Re-Dedication Ceremony 5/29/2021? Button is all for it but needs to check with others, as there is still concern with Covid-19 and elderly honor guard. Council agreed this event will occur. Need to have paver orders engraved and installed. Remind everyone once details are finalized. Will the pyro company still donate booms for the 21-gun salute? Clerk will check.

July Fourth Celebration? 7/4 is Sunday with federal holiday on Monday 7/5. Council agreed to have fireworks on actual date of 7/4 with an order of \$5,000 from Community Event Fund. City will mail letters to businesses requesting donations. Nice morale booster for everyone after the year we have had!

Wahkon Days? Bjornson stated it isn't the city clerk's job to oversee this city event any longer. Last year's audit had "significant deficiency" noted "Cities have no statutory authority to hold fundraisers. We recommend that the City establish a relationship with a local non-profit organization to handle the activities of Wahkon Days. The proceeds from the event can be donated to the City once the event is complete." How do we proceed to find a group? WAVE Committee volunteers are getting older. People are calling about the event already. City took over organizing in 2010 when Wahkon Civic Assoc. dissolved in order that it continue. Tom Remer, owner of Wahkon Inn, said he had three new members but civic still disbanded. City organized it for 10 years along with volunteers; no event in 2020 due to Covid-19. Jonah and the Whales band was paid retainer for 2020 and agreed to carry it over to 8/21/2021. Get the word out we are in need of an organization to take this on. Raffle and button drawings are considered charitable gambling with strict rules. Place issue on next month's agenda.

Main Street property lot can be used by vendors and farmer markets beginning this spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mille Lacs County (MLC) Attorney Joe Walsh Letter to Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan & Attorney General Keith Ellison Re: MnDOT 1855 Reservation Signs: Letter conveys county frustration of not being involved. "The pattern of our own State and Federal government refusing to provide us information or collaborate with us regarding something that significantly impacts Mille Lacs County residents is concerning." Upcoming virtual meeting with AG Ellison; clerk and Mayor will join in from city hall.

MN House Research: American Indians, Indian Tribes, and State Government 2/2020: This is referenced in MLC letter to the governor. "This guidebook discusses major issues involved in the relationship between Indian tribes, American Indians, and state government, including criminal and civil jurisdiction, employment, control of natural resources, gaming and liquor regulation, taxation, health and human services, child welfare, education, and civic engagement." Council can review full 159-page report as it is available in the cloud.

Proper Economic Resource Management (PERM) Email "Walz and Ellison take side in reservation boundary issue – and not with the citizens they govern": Informational.

Mille Lacs Tribal Economy Business Incubator Letter of Support Request: Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (MLCV) Email: May the clerk draft a letter? Council agreed to send letter; goal is to fill empty businesses.

Charitable Gambling 10% Fund History: Clerk provided report of receipts and disbursement for 2013 – 2021. Covid-19 business closures created months without receipts. Beginning 2019, council earmarked annual fire protection fee of \$9375.04 be paid through this fund as allowed by the state. Even though we can make four installments, should we pay entire annual fee and then remaining funds can be used

for donations? Council agreed as this will make tracking available cash for donations and other allowed expenses easier. Bjornson would like these funds to be used for parks. Council will revisit use of CG funds at next budget meeting.

Initiative Foundation (IF) Contribution Request: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Button to donate \$250 to IF. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) Donation Request: Button met a Brainerd veteran that received housing assistance. Motion by Button to donate \$250 to MACV. Motion amended by Button, seconded by Frederickson to donate \$500 to MACV. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Advance Resignation Notice Program: This has been on three meeting agendas. City attorney has reviewed it along with our Personnel Policy. Currently resignation only requires 14 days and retirement 30 days. Clerk memo noted how council, during personnel policy review, questioned whether department heads could be required to give additional notice. City attorney explained how that can be construed as “exempt employees” salary vs OT/bank hours and to leave as is. This program would incentivize longer leave notice in which to hire and adequately train their replacement; 90 days equals 20 hours pay; 120 days 40 hours pay and 180 days 60 hours pay. With recent unexpected retirement of Wastewater Operator Chris Weinreich, council and staff know full well the importance of adequate time. Program wouldn’t have worked in this instance, but at least it will be available and hopefully used in the future. Motion by Roberts, seconded by Frederickson to approve the Advance Resignation Notice Program. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously.

Wastewater: Weinreich: Phillip Wiedewitsch needs to replace his connection. Recent subdivision was approved; original large parcel constructed three laterals at different times which enter LS #6 as one pipe. Working with Wiedewitsch on plan of action, which may be to connect through the main sewer and not LS. Pipe has to be fixed in the LS for the other two connections, as currently it is blocked with large mineral deposit. Thule is scheduled to be here for other repairs and this could be added. City Engineer Dave Blommel offered the option that if Wiedewitsch can reach the pipe and safely remove it, no contractor would be required. Wiedewitsch is a licensed plumber and is aware he can’t go into the lift station. By allowing connections directly in LS, there is some responsible of the city to ensure maintenance. Mineral deposit could fall and damage pumps. Weinreich will work with Wiedewitsch and keep council informed.

Zoning: One fence permit was issued in February.

Employee, Committee & Councilmember Updates: Roeschlein: Wahkon projected to receive \$39,095 in economic relief aid which can be used through 12/31/2024. Quilt club will have meeting in community hall on 4/6.

Council emails are generic and were setup quickly by MCSI for their laptops, council1, council2, etc. @gmail.com. Currently clerk and public works are following same protocol as Isle using first name only, Karrie@cityofwahkon.com and Jacob@cityofwahkon.com. Council agreed to go with Mayor.Ronda@cityofwahkon.com, Rick@cityofwahkon.com, Tony@cityofwahkon.com, Brenda@cityofwahkon.com and Chip@cityofwahkon.com, which will be set up through DMDS. Savage Communications contracts with them to host city website and emails. Frederickson welcomed Roberts back from winter trip.

Need to schedule annual Mille Lacs Island Resort (MLIR) meeting. No meeting in 2020 due to Covid-19. Council agreed City Engineer Blommel should attend to discuss upcoming WW system improvement project funded in part through USDA; fall bidding with spring 2022 construction. Will need to address that MLIR benefits from upcoming project and should pay for their portion. WW Commissioner Frederickson and Mayor Bjornson will attend; Tuesdays or Thursdays works best for them. Clerk will coordinate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Frederickson, seconded by Roberts to adjourn. Ayes: Roberts, Frederickson, Button, Buck, and Bjornson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Karrie Roeschlein, Clerk/Treasurer